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SOURCE Dolnoslaski Informator Gospodarczy (Economic Information Reference Book on Dolny Slask).

PRECISION INSTRUMENT PLANTS IN DOLNY SLASK

Panstwowa Wytwornia Optyczna

Panstwowa Wytwornia Optyczna (State Optical Glassworks) located at 12 Dewajtis Street, Jelenia Gora is the former Hirschoerger Optische Werke, which made optical parts for sights and prisms for tanks during World War II.

The factory was in good condition when the Polish state took it over 1 September 1945. Only a small part of the equipment had been evacuated and the laboratory, workshop, and office equipment were almost intact. The plant consisted of a glass foundry, to produce special qualities of optical and industrial glass, and a glass grinding division. The plant had its own railroad siding, for loading freight cars, which was under a roof and covered an area of 42,000 square meters. Its production of optical glass for chemistry and physics laboratories, and fire prevention, antiaircraft, and transportation equipment gave the plant a leading place in Dolny Slask industry. The factory was one of nine in the world engaged in this type of production.

After the war, the machinery had to be repaired, but the warehouses contained most of the essential raw materials. Production was converted to peace time. Furnaces for smelting high-grade laboratory and industrial glass were activated and preparations were made for the production of optical glass.

During the war, the plant employed 500 persons in two shifts. It now employs 300 in one shift and is constantly being expanded. Fewer than 20 Germans are now employed at the plant. Great efforts are being made to expand the precision machining division, but there is a shortage of skilled workers. The Three-Year Plan calls for expansion of production to a value of 20 million zlotys monthly.

Wroclawska Fabryka Wag

Wroclawska Fabryka Wag (Wroclaw Scale Factory), located at 36 Nowy Swiat Street in Wroclaw, is the former C. Hermann plant, one of the oldest German scale factories, founded in 1839.

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The plant was burned down completely in 1945, except for one workshop for platform scales at 1 W. Kadlubka Street in Karlowice. In the beginning this was used by Famo for the repair of tractors.

In December 1945, several Germans were located who had formerly been employed at three scale factories in Wroclaw, and work on scales was resumed on 15 December 1945. There were seven employees, all Germans, and production was six scales monthly. Later, Poles were hired and nearly all the Germans released.

At first, the plant operated under the Poludniowe Zjednoczenie Przemysłu Metalowego (Southern Association of the Metal Fabrication Industry) in Bydgoszcz. In April 1946, the factory was transferred to the Association of the Machine-Tool Industry, Precision and Optical Equipment Group. Machine tools and salvaged materials were brought in from the burned Schoenfelder and Labude scale factories in Wroclaw and Golnitz in Szprotawa, and the scale repair shop at 37 General H. Dabrowski Street was taken over.

In 1947, 133 workers were employed, including 60 in direct production, and one German specialist. Production in 1947 was 200 scales monthly, including various sizes of Polish-model platform scales, beam scales, and automobile platform scales. A new division is to be activated for counter scales and parts.

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